

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 5-9 are pending. Claims 6-9 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the August 18, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for so indicating and has rewritten claim 7 in independent form in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant has amended claim 6 and 8-9 in view of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,818,591 (hereinafter Arai) in view of Ueno Ichiro, JP 03-219428. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Applicant has enclosed herewith a certified English translation of the Priority Document JP 2002-188167 to perfect the claim for priority in accordance with 37 C. F. R. § 1.451. Applicant respectfully submits that the Arai reference has a filing date of July 19, 2002, which is after the June 27, 2002 priority date of the above-identified application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) should be withdrawn.

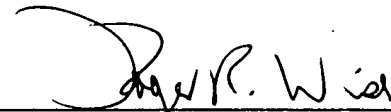
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants believe that the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 20, 2007

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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